national pride for me to market India. I am also proud to announce to the House today that the Tourism Ministry has won several awards this year for all the campaign and for the highest re-call ability across the world. Today, 'Incredible India' has registered as a brand name and that shows the rising number of tourists coming into the country. Thank you for the support. This is for the first time that Rajya Sabha has addressed the question on tourism for so long. I hope and look forward for more ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, whether any proposal from the State of Andhra Pradesh is pending before the Ministry ...*(interruptions)*...

श्री तारिक अनवर: उपसभापति महोदय, जैसा अभी कहा गया कि हमारे देश में टूरिज्म के विकास के लिए काफी अवसर हैं और ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति: जल्दी पूछिए, एक मिनट बचा है।

श्री तारिक अनवर: टूरिज्म के माध्यम से हम एम्प्लॉयमेंट भी जेनरेट कर सकते हैं। माननीय मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो उन्होंने कहा है कि जो भी टूरिज्म का विकास है वह राज्य सरकार पर निर्भर करता है, राज्य सरकार के ऊपर उसकी जिम्मेदारी है और केन्द्र सरकार उसमें सहयोग करती है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ख्याति के जो टूरिज्म स्पॉट्स हैं क्या उस पर भारत सरकार स्वयं या आपका मंत्रालय ध्यान दे सकता है?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: नहीं जी, आप भी जानते हैं कि जो यूनेस्को के पहचाने हुए 28 वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज साईट्स आज अपने देश में हैं यह कल्चर की मिनिस्ट्री में अंडर कल्चर आ जाती है और दूसरी बात, हमने तो सर्फेस ट्रांसपोर्ट और इन लोगों से कहा है कि तुरन्त एक ही इशारे में इन सारी जगहों के लिए हमें रोड कनेक्टिविटी, पब्लिक फेसेलिटीज and ramps for physically-challenged people लागू कर देना चाहिए और उसकी मार्केटिंग के बारे में यह फैसला हम लोगों ने किया है कि special package will be given.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Pension commitments

*281. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what percentage of the net tax revenue is spent on pension commitments by the Central as well as State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The revised estimates for the year 2004-05 provided for 11.64% of net tax revenue of Central Government to be spent on pension commitments. State Governments during this period spent 14.28% of their net tax revenues on pension commitments.

Impact of unleaded petrol on environment

†*286. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the dangerous benzene gas is dissolving in the atmosphere due to unleaded petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken to check it;

(c) whether Government are aware that employees of petrol pumps and the people living around are being affected to great extent and there is risk of blood cancer to the persons living in contact with bengene for a long time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the potential health hazard posed by benzene in the atmosphere, the Bureau of Indian Standards have laid down permissible limits of benzene level in petrol. In the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government, there is a road map for the progressive reduction of the maximum permissible benzene in petrol from 5% to 3% to 1% by 2010. At present, the benzene level in certain identified cities, including metros, has been brought down to 1% maximum, and in the rest of the country, it is at 5% maximum.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had undertaken benzene level measurement in ambient air in Delhi during the years 1999-2003. According to this report, the annual mean benzene level in Delhi has been showing gradual decrease since 1999 and by 2003 had been reduced to a level almost similar to that of the United Kingdom's annual running mean standard of 16 micro gram/m^3.

(c) and (d) Government are aware of the adverse health effects of prolonged exposure to high level of benzene. That is why steps are being taken to progressively reduce the permissible limits of benzene in petrol.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.